



2022

Graduate Programmes

**S R NATHAN SCHOOL OF
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

MASTER OF
**EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**



Programme Overview

In Singapore and around the world, there has been increasing emphasis on providing quality care and education to children as governments recognise the importance of investing early in their wellbeing and development. High quality early childhood care and education services require well-trained and continuously improving educators. Therefore, there is a need to prepare more knowledgeable teacher educators and professional developers within education systems to support teachers' continued growth and development.



Working with adults (i.e., teachers and leaders) in a childcare centre/kindergarten, however, requires additional knowledge base and skill set that is different from working directly with young children.

The revised Master of Early Childhood Education (MECED) programme has been designed with special care to meet the needs of experienced educators who aspire to become trainers, mentors, coaches and professional developers within individual childcare centres/kindergartens or within larger organisations that provide early childhood care and education (ECCE) services. As such, the programme blends two distinct yet related bodies of knowledge — 1) adult learning theories and pedagogical knowledge, and 2) up-to-date child development knowledge to inform early childhood curricular design and pedagogical practices.

The goal of the programme is to support existing professional developers and trainers, as well as enhance curriculum leadership and pedagogical knowledge amongst early childhood educators (teachers and leaders included). The courses in the adult learning component will provide insights into contemporary approaches to engaging adult learners, including blended learning approaches. Additionally, course development and assessment for adult learners as well as emerging trends in adult learning will also be covered. The programme has also broadened its admission criteria to support related educational professionals who need to design training and continuous learning and development opportunities for early childhood educators within ECCE organisations as well as the ECCE sector at large.

The relevance of this programme is highly dependent on the real-world problems that you bring to the course instructors. Assignments for many of the ECE courses will allow you to delve into specific curricular topics of your choice, so that you can immediately apply what you have read, discussed, and learned in the courses to your workplace.

Unique Features of the Programme:

- Contemporary findings in research on child development and quality ECCE
- Adult-learning theories/strategies that can be applied to ECCE teacher training and development contexts
- Application of research-based practices into the design of workshops and courses for early childhood teachers
- Courses are taught by academics and practitioners with a blend of local and global perspectives
- Classes are scheduled to suit the needs of working adults, in short bursts of face-to-face seminars and plenty of self-directed learning materials
- Assignments revolve around real-world teacher/professional development problems and contexts



Programme Structure

To graduate with the Master of Early Childhood Education, students are required to complete a total of 60 credit units (cu) and obtain a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0. All courses are 5 cu unless stated otherwise.

- Engaging Adults for Learning
- Approaches to Blended Learning
- Assessment in Adult Learning
- Learning Design and Methodology
 - Learning Needs Analysis
 - Learning Design Project



- Child Development and Early Childhood Curriculum:
Shifts in Research and Practice
- Valuing Diversity: Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education
- Leadership in Curriculum Development, Analysis and Instruction
 - Mentoring and Coaching in Educational Settings
- Investigating Curricular Content and Constructivist Pedagogies
 - Independent Curriculum Project



Master of Early Childhood Education¹

Explanatory Note:

¹ Need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to be awarded Master of Early Childhood Education.

For more information on our Master of Early Childhood Education, please visit suss.edu.sg/MECED

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Admission Criteria

Applicants must possess an undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification from a recognised institution.

For SUSS graduate programmes that are conducted in the English Language, you must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR)* **if** your undergraduate degree is not awarded by an English-medium university, **or** your undergraduate degree is awarded by an English-medium university but the language of instruction was not English.

** at least an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5, or a TOEFL score of 580 (paper-based) or 85 (internet-based), or a PTE Academic score of 58, or C1 Advanced score of 180 [score must be obtained within the last 2 years at point of application].*

Applicants with an undergraduate degree that was conducted in English but awarded by a non-English medium university must produce an official letter from the university to certify as such in order to seek waiver of the ELPR requirement.

In addition, you will need to meet these minimum requirements:

- Strong academic and/or professional record
- Relevant work experience in early childhood-related educational settings so as to complete required assignments

Shortlisted applicants will be required to undergo one or more interviews and/or take such written admission or other evaluation tests as may be prescribed by SUSS from time to time.

All applications are considered individually on merit, and the offer of admission is dependent on the number of places available in individual programmes. Admission is solely at the discretion of SUSS and the decision is final and binding. SUSS reserves the right to refuse admission and is not obliged to offer an explanation for the non-admission of unsuccessful candidates.

Tuition Fees

The amount of course fees you pay in each semester depends on the number of courses you take in that semester. The course fees cover all study materials, classes, tutor supervision, assignments and examinations. They do not include fees for textbooks and other additional items specified by SUSS from time to time.

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